

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the drawings, and for acknowledging receipt of the certified priority document and Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for allowing claim 1, and for indicating that claims 3-6 include patentable subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The grounds of rejection state that the phrase "the windows", found on line 3 of claim 5, lacks a proper antecedent basis. The Examiner suggests to change the dependency of claim 5 from claim 2 to claim 3. Applicants have made this amendment and thank the Examiner for her suggestion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minami et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0156585 A1) in view of JP 61-125784. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minami et al. in view of JP 61-125784 as applied to claim 2, and further in view of Obayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,677,595).

Applicants herein submit an English language translation of the priority document 2002-283671 with a date of application of September 27, 2002 that antedates the publishing date of Minami et al. (August 21, 2003). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Minami et al. is disqualified as a reference, therefore making moot the grounds of rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Kimble
Registration No. 44,186

Date: September 24, 2004